

PRESS RELEASE

June 6, 2006

TWO PLEAD GUILTY TO CRIMES RELATING TO SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION BENEFITS

**RE: UNITED STATES v. SHIRLEY LITTLE
UNITED STATES v. ABDULLAH MANSOOB**

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn, announced today that two individuals, charged in separate and unrelated cases, recently pled guilty to crimes relating to Social Security Administration benefits. On May 26, 2006, Shirley Little, age 50, of Buffalo, New York, pled guilty to a one-count Information charging her with converting approximately \$42,752.00 in property of the United States (Supplemental Security Income disability payments) in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641. Earlier today, Abdullah Mansoob, age 61, formerly of Buffalo, New York, and now residing in Detroit, Michigan, pled guilty to a one-count Information charging him with making a false statement to the United States Social Security Administration relating to his travel to Yemen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison P. Gioia stated that Ms. Little pled guilty before United States District Judge John T.

Elfvin and at sentencing, Little faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years and a \$250,000 fine. According to the terms of the plea agreement, beginning in 1992, Little was the representative payee for her mother, Mattie Little's Supplemental Security Income disability payments. Mattie Little died on December 30, 1993, however, Shirley Little continued to receive and cash Mattie Little's SSI checks until in or about May 2005. In a statement given to the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Little admitted that her mother died (she believed on New Year's Eve 1999) and that she had been intentionally cashing her mother's SSI checks.

Little admitted that for the period October 1, 1999, through and including April 29, 2005, the loss to the Social Security Administration was \$42,752.00. The terms of the plea agreement further provide that at sentencing, the Court must require Little to pay restitution in the amount of \$81,438.00 to the Social Security Administration. Sentencing is scheduled for September 15, 2006, before United States District Judge John T. Elfvin.

Earlier today, Abdullah Mansoob, a native of Yemen and now a naturalized United States citizen, pled guilty to making a false statement to the Social Security Administration relating to whether he had spent a full calendar month outside of the United States. Specifically, Mansoob admitted that on a form submitted to the

Social Security Administration, he stated that he had not traveled to Yemen since 1997. At the time he made the statement to the Social Security Administration, Mansoob well knew that he had traveled to Yemen and other destinations outside the continental United States since 1997 and had spent in excess of a full calendar month outside the United States. During the plea, Mansoob indicated that he understood that he must report to the Social Security Administration whenever he leaves the United States for at least 30 consecutive days or if he moves to another state. At sentencing, Mansoob faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years and a \$250,000 fine. During the plea, Mansoob indicated to United States District Judge William M. Skretny that he understood that at sentencing, the Court must require Mansoob to pay restitution in the amount of approximately \$39,812.18 to the Social Security Administration. Sentencing is scheduled for October 26, 2006, before United States District Judge William M. Skretny.

Both guilty pleas were the result of an investigation coordinated by the United States Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, with the assistance of the United States Secret Service.